

EASTERN CONNECTICUT HEALTH NETWORK

NEWS RELEASE

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Manchester Memorial Hospital Among Top Five Percent in Nation According to Quality Study

Recognized for outstanding clinical performance by HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare ratings company

Manchester, CT (January 27, 2009) – Eastern Connecticut Health Network (ECHN) announced today that Manchester Memorial Hospital is among the nation's top five percent of hospitals, according to an independent study of mortality and complication rates for nearly 5,000 hospitals released today by HealthGrades, the nation's leading healthcare ratings company. ECHN earlier this month announced that both of its hospitals, Rockville General and Manchester Memorial, were the recipients of the HealthGrades' 2009 Pulmonary Care Excellence Award.

Manchester Memorial Hospital has achieved HealthGrades' 2009 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™ based on its clinical quality performance. According to the HealthGrades study, patients admitted to a hospital receiving this award are, on average, 27 percent less likely to die and eight percent less likely to suffer from a major complication. This year, only 270 of the nation's nearly 5,000 non-federal hospitals will receive this distinction.

The HealthGrades study also found that Distinguished Hospitals for Clinical Excellence are improving their patient outcomes at a greater rate in more procedures and diagnoses than all other hospitals, lowering risk-adjusted mortality rates over the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 by an average of 18 percent.

"Quality, Safety and Culture is one of four strategic pillars at ECHN," says Peter Karl, President and CEO of ECHN.

"Commitment to caring is central to our mission, vision, and core values and is practiced by our Board of Trustees, physicians, and individual staff members. This outstanding achievement on our part and the prestigious recognition from HealthGrades, an independent party, validates the diligent efforts of each member of our team in providing high-quality health care services to our community in a safe environment. It is our vision that we exceed the expectations of our patients, physicians, and community, and I think we just did."

"The hospitals that have been designated as Distinguished Hospitals for Clinical Excellence™ have, across the board, been leaders in their commitment to delivering the highest quality patient care. Consumers can choose where they receive their healthcare and our study again highlights the tremendous disparity in quality between hospitals," said Rick May, M.D., HealthGrades senior physician consultant.

Additional 2009 HealthGrades Clinical Quality Achievements by MMH Include:

One of 270 Hospitals in the Country to receive the 2009 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™
One of 7 Hospitals in CT to receive the 2009 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™

This is the seventh year that HealthGrades has independently analyzed the clinical quality performance of all non-federal hospitals across the country in 26 procedures and diagnoses. In the Distinguished Hospital Study, the company reviewed nearly 41 million hospitalization records from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, over the years 2005, 2006 and 2007. All hospitals that participate in the Medicare program were part of the independent study. Hospitals that receive the HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™ are those hospitals that rank in the top five percent when all 26 individual scores are aggregated into an overall score.

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"At ECHN, we have a skillful and dedicated team of clinicians and employees," said Karl. "It is because of their hard work and commitment that our patients and their families receive quality healthcare that is among the best in the nation."

ECHN is a not-for-profit health care system serving 19 towns in eastern Connecticut, through its network of affiliates that include Manchester Memorial Hospital, Rockville General Hospital, Woodlake at Tolland (a 100-bed nursing home and short-term rehabilitation facility), the ECHN Medical Building at Evergreen Walk in South Windsor, which houses the Women's Center for Wellness, and ECHN Health Services Inc. (a series of medical practices owned and operated by ECHN). It is in partnership with Visiting Nurse & Health Services of Connecticut Inc., Connecticut Occupational Medicine Partners Inc., Ambulance Service of Manchester, Aetna Ambulance, Metro Wheelchair, and Saint Francis Care (which partners with ECHN on the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory of the Hoffman Heart Institute of Connecticut at Rockville General Hospital), Community CancerCare Inc. (which provides radiation therapy services at The John A. DeQuattro Community Cancer Center in Manchester), Evergreen Imaging in South Windsor and the Tolland Imaging Center. ECHN is also affiliated with Connecticut Children's Medical Center. More detailed information about the health system can be found on our Website at www.echn.org.